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26 Charter Circle
Ossining, NY 10562

October 16, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 615F
Washington, D.C 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As a state-licensed hearing health care provider for approximately ten years, I am concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administration has sent you proposals to revise the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids that would dramatically increase the costs of hearing health care services and restrict access to providers for millions of our nation's senior citizens and others. Additionally, it could put me out of work.

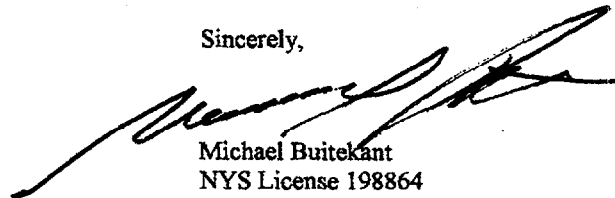
Please carefully consider the impact that this rule will have upon the nation's hearing impaired, especially senior citizens, and on the small-business hearing care professionals who have been providing this service successfully for many years.

Also, please be sure that the proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

Hearing impairment is a major health concern. Please do not allow the FDA to put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed health care services for millions of Americans.

I would appreciate your response and a copy of any letter you send on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Michael Buitekant
NYS License 198864

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